PRESIDENT: A great deal can be said on both sides. It is very difficult to dogmatise on these matters. It is open to a person to contend, if the war is going to last, that, as between his duty to the Almighty and his duty to Man, he prefers his duty to the Almighty and say that so long as the war lasts he is not going to attend any meetings on Sundays. These are questions of practical exigency. I shall be guided by the wishes of the House.

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM: I wish to know whether the time allotted for questions and answers can be converted to discuss motions

PRESIDENT: I am only ascertaining the sense of the House. The answer shall decide whether it will be done, or will not be done.

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN: എനിക്കു ഇൻഫിറേഷൻ കിട്ടിയതു് ഞായറാഴ്ച ഫ്ര മണിക്കു യോഗം കൂടാൻ നിശ്ചയിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നുവെന്നാണ്. അന്നു ഫ്ര മണിക്കു പള്ളിയിലെ സർവീസുപോലും അവസാനിക്കുകയില്ലെന്നും അത്യാവശ്യമാണെങ്കിൽ ൻ മണിക്കുമേൽ മീറ്റിംഗു വച്ചാൽ ഞാൻ വരാമെന്നും ഖ്യാതി അയച്ചു. അതിനു മറുപടിപോലും തരാതെ ഫ്ര മണിക്കു മീറ്റിംഗു നടത്തുകയാണു ചെയ്തതു.

MR. E. G. SALTER: It is true that a letter was received in the office during my absence in Munnar in connection with the operation of the Pallivasal Hydro-Electric Transport extension and in the absence of the Superintendent of the Transport Department in Cochin in connection with the shipment of foodgrains into Travancore. Because of that, I am sorry. On the other hand I wish to point out that this was the only objection received and so I was justified in acting in accordance with the wishes of the majority rather than those of the minority.

PRESIDENT: Did any Christian member attend that meeting?

MR. E. G. SALTER: With the exception of myself, no, Sir.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: Sir, this question involves principles of far reaching importance.

PRESIDENT: The question will be raised in the form of a Resolution at the next meeting of the House.

Functions of Taluk, Pakuthy and Kara Committees.

* MR. K. R. NARAYANAN (*Vaikom* cum *Kottayam*): Will the Government be pleased to furnish the following information regarding the Taluk, Pakuthy and Kara Committees in the State:

(*a*) whether there are Committees for every taluk, pakuthy and kara in the State;

(*b*) what are the functions of the above Committees;

(*c*) whether these Committees are consulted regarding the purchase and distribution of food materials within their respective areas;

(*d*) whether these Committees are consulted in the selection of wholesale and retail dealers; and

(*e*) whether the Taluk Committees are complying with the orders of the Government to submit minutes of their monthly meetings?

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RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: (*a*) Government have directed that Committees for every Taluk, Pakuthy and Kara should be constituted. It is reported by the Division Peishkars that Taluk Committees and Pakuthy and Kara Committees have been formed. Information as to details of the working of these committees in each Taluk has been called for and will be made available to the honourable members.

(*b*) The functions of the Committees are to collaborate with the officials in the purchase of paddy, distribution of foodgrains and to furnish information regarding scarcity of foodgrains or maladjustments, if any, in particular localities and to render such assistance as is possible in the securing of excess stocks.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) Information has been called for.

(*e*) The orders in this matter were issued on 25-12-1943. The reports from the Tahsildars are awaited.

MR. K. R. NARAYANAN: പാർട്ട് ഡി. കച്ചവടക്കാരനെ നിയമിക്കുന്നതിനുമുൻപു് അപേക്ഷകരം ക്ഷണിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു താലൂക്കു കച്ചേരിയിൽ നിന്നു നോട്ടീസ് എഴുതണമെന്നു വ്യക്തമായി ഗവണ്മെൻറു ഉത്തരവു് അയച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ ?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: The procedure has been prescribed. In regard to the selection of merchants, the distributing authority is given the option.

MR. K. R. NARAYANAN: എന്റെ ചോദ്യം ഇതാണ്. റേഷനിംഗ് ആഫീസറോ തഹശീൽദാരോ ആരായിരുന്നാലും കച്ചവടക്കാരെ ക്ഷണിക്കുന്നതിനുമുമ്പു് താലൂക്കുകച്ചേരിയിൽനിന്നു് നോട്ടീസ് എഴുതണമെന്നു ഗവണ്മെൻറു ഉത്തരവിട്ടോ?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: I may refer the honourable member to pages 36 and 37, paragraph 6, of the Proceedings of the Government which prescribe the procedure for the selection of merchants.

MR. K. S. SABASTIAN (*Changanacherry cum Peermade*): May I know whether the Government are aware that the merchants themselves are members of the Taluk Committees?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: Some of them may be, Sir.

MR. K. S. SABASTIAN: May I know whether it is advisable to have such merchants on the committee?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: They are licensees, Sir.

MR. N. NARAYANA KURUP (*Ambalapuzha cum Shertallai*): May I know whether the circular dated the 13th December 1943 issued by the State Rationing Officer requires applications being invited from retail merchants in all localities?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: That is for rationing purposes.

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MR. K. KUNJU PANICKAR: May I know who constitutes the Taluk Committee?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: The Tahsildar, in consultation with the leading members of the Legislature and others.

MR. K. KUNJU PANICKAR: When a certain member is included in the Taluk Committee, will he not be informed about it?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: I believe so, Sir.

MR. K. KUNJU PANICKAR: I was never informed, though I am a member of both the Mavelikara and the Kunnathur Taluk Committees.

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: I find that they are ex-officio members of the Committee. The proceedings say that the Taluk Committee shall consist of the members of the Legislature representing each Taluk and other members.

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN: ഇങ്ങനെ പ്രൊസീഡിംഗ്സിൽ ഉണ്ടെങ്കിലും പ്രയോഗത്തിൽ അങ്ങിനെ നടക്കുന്നുണ്ടോ എന്നു അന്വേഷിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: പല മെമ്പറന്മാരും താലൂക്ക കമ്മിറ്റികളിൽ ഭാഗഭാക്കുകളായിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു പ്രസ്താവന ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ട്.

SAHIB BAHADUR P. S. MOHAMMED (*Quilon cum Kottarakara*): ഞാൻ ഈ കമ്മിറ്റിയിലെ മെമ്പറാണ്. എനിക്കു നോട്ടീസു കിട്ടിയിട്ടില്ലെന്നറിയാമോ?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: അതന്വേഷിക്കണം.

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN: എന്നെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു പറയുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ഞാൻ പ്രതിനിധീകരിക്കുന്ന രണ്ടു താലൂക്കുകളിലും നിന്നു ഇതുവരെ എനിക്കു നോട്ടീസു കിട്ടിയിട്ടില്ല.

COMPLAINT ABOUT THE PENDENCY OF ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: Sir, the constitution has allowed us the right to ask questions and put supplementary questions, and the rules lay down that 15 days' notice should be given to the Secretary. The 15 days' notice evidently is meant for the Government Officers to prepare the answers. Yesterday the Chief Secretary said that the Christmas holidays intervened. The holidays were marked in the calendar. We knew it already. In any case I am unable to understand how the later question, Numbers 79, 92, 96 etc., could be answered when a very large number of earlier questions remains unanswered.

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: The answer is very simple. Questions are not being answered in the numerical order in which they are received. It will depend entirely upon the nature of the information called for.

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